

Laus reference. Rather, the Laus reference, which is a prior publication by the present inventors, discloses microparticles having bovine serum albumin (BSA) adsorbed on their surface (see the section titled "BSA adsorption" on page 281). However, BSA is not a disease-associated antigen, as defined at page 17, lines 16 to 23, of the application as filed. In particular, BSA is not associated with any diseases. Hence, the common subject matter of the restriction groups is novel over Laus. The common subject matter is also non-obvious because, as described in the Examples, the disease-associated antigen unexpectedly retains activity when attached to a microparticle.

Although no fees are believed to be due, if there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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